AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (*cancelled*)

2. (*currently amended*) A composition as claimed in claim [~~1~~] **5,** wherein the inhibiting agent has no ozone depletion potential.

3. (*currently amended*) A composition as claimed in claim [~~1~~] **5,** wherein the carrier gas is selected from the group consisting of air, carbon dioxide, argon, nitrogen and mixtures thereof.

4. (*currently amended*) A composition as claimed in claim [~~1~~] **5,** wherein each component of the composition has GWP of less than 3000.

5. (*currently amended*) A [~~non-trifluoromethane-containing~~] cover gas composition adapted for the protection of molten magnesium/magnesium alloy, the composition including up to less than 1% by volume of a fluorine containing inhibiting agent selected from the group consisting of [~~hydrofluorocarbons~~] **difluoromethane, pentafluoroethane, 1, 1, 1, 2-tetrafluoroethane, difluoroethane, heptafluoropropane, dihydrodecafluoropentane,** hydrofluoroethers and mixtures thereof, and a carrier gas, wherein each component of the composition has a Global Warming Potential (GWP) (referenced to the absolute GWP for carbon dioxide at a time horizon of 100 years) of less than 5000.

6. (*currently amended*) A composition as claimed in claim [~~1~~] **5** wherein the inhibiting agent has a boiling point of less than 100°C.

7. (*currently amended*) A composition as claimed in claim [~~1~~] **5,** wherein the [~~inhibiting agent is~~] **hydrofluoroethers are** selected from the group consisting of [~~difluoromethane, pentafluoroethane, 1, 1, 1, 2-tetrafluoroethane, difluoroethane, heptafluoropropane,~~] methoxy-nonafluorobutane, ethoxy-nonafluorobutane, [~~dihydrodecafluoropentane~~] and mixtures thereof.

8. (*previously presented*) A composition as claimed in claim 4 wherein each component of the composition has a GWP of less than 1500.

9. (*previously presented*) A composition as claimed in claim 7 wherein the inhibiting agent is 1, 1, 1, 2-tetrafluoroethane and the carrier gas is dry air.

10. *(previously presented)* A cover gas composition adapted for the protection of molten magnesium/magnesium alloy, the composition including a fluorine containing inhibiting agent selected from the group consisting of difluoromethane, pentafluoroethane, 1, 1, 1, 2-tetrafluoroethane, difluoroethane, heptafluoropropane, methoxy-nonafluorobutane, ethoxy-nonafluorobutane, dihydrodecafluoropentane and mixtures thereof, wherein said inhibiting agent is up to less than 1% by volume of the composition, and a

carrier gas, wherein each component of the composition has a Global Warming Potential (GWP) (referenced to the absolute GWP for carbon dioxide at a time horizon of 100 years) of less than 5000.

11. (*previously presented*) A composition as claimed in claim 10 containing up to less than 0.5% by volume inhibiting agent.

12. (*previously presented*) A composition as claimed in claim 11 containing up to less than 0.1% by volume inhibiting agent.

13. – 32. *(cancelled)*

33. (*previously presented*) A composition as claimed in claim 7, wherein the inhibiting agent is 1, 1, 1, 2-tetrafluoroethane and the carrier gas is selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, carbon dioxide and mixtures thereof.

34. (*currently amended*) A method of protecting molten magnesium/magnesium alloy, comprising blanketing the magnesium/magnesium alloy with a [~~non-trifluoromethane containing~~] cover gas composition containing up to less than 1% by volume of a fluorine containing inhibiting agent **selected from the group consisting of difluoromethane, pentafluoroethane, 1, 1, 1, 2-tetrafluoroethane, difluoroethane, heptafluoropropane, dihydrodecafluoropentane, hydrofluoroethers, and**

mixtures thereof, and a carrier gas, wherein each component of the composition has a Global Warming Potential (GWP) (referenced to the absolute GWP for carbon dioxide at a time horizon of 100 years) of less than 5000.

35.-38. (*cancelled*)

39. (*currently amended*) A method as claimed in claim 37, wherein [said hydrofluorocarbon] **the inhibiting agent** is 1, 1, 1, 2-tetrafluoroethane.

40. (*currently amended*) A method as claimed in claim [~~36~~] **34**, wherein said fluorine containing inhibiting agent is a hydrofluoroether.

41. (*previously presented*) A method as claimed in claim 40, wherein said hydrofluoroether is selected from the group consisting of methoxynonafluorobutane, ethoxynonafluorobutane, and mixtures thereof.

42. (*cancelled*)

43. (*currently amended*) A method as claimed in claim [~~42~~] **34**, wherein said carrier gas is selected from the group consisting of air, CO_2, argon, nitrogen, and mixtures thereof.

44. (*currently amended*) A method for protecting an exposed surface of molten magnesium/magnesium alloy from reacting with oxygen in air, comprising:

(a) providing molten magnesium/magnesium alloy;

(b) contacting said molten magnesium/magnesium alloy with a [~~non-trifluoromethane-containing~~] gaseous mixture [~~comprising~~] **including** up to less than 1% by volume of a fluorine containing inhibiting agent selected from the group consisting of **difluoromethane, pentafluoroethane, 1, 1, 1, 2-tetrafluoroethane, difluoroethane, heptafluoropropane, dihydrodecafluoropentane,** [~~hydrofluorocarbons,~~] hydrofluoroethers, and mixtures thereof; and

(c) forming a protective film/layer on the surface of said molten magnesium/magnesium alloy.

45. (*previously presented*) A method as claimed in claim 44, wherein the gaseous mixture further comprises a carrier gas.

46. (*previously presented*) A method as claimed in claim 45, wherein said carrier gas is selected from the group consisting of air, CO_2, argon, nitrogen, and mixtures thereof.

47-48. (*cancelled*)

49. (*currently amended*) A method as claimed in claim [~~47~~] **44**, wherein [~~said hydrofluorocarbon~~] **the inhibiting agent** is 1, 1, 1, 2-tetrafluoroethane.

50. (*currently amended*) A method as claimed in claim [~~47~~] **44**, wherein said fluorine containing inhibiting agent is a hydrofluoroether.

51. (*currently amended*) A method as claimed in claim [44] **50**, wherein said hydrofluoroether is selected from the group consisting of methoxynonafluorobutane, ethoxynonafluorobutane, and mixtures thereof.